

# Saipan Tribune

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## INSIDE



### Farewell

A total of 32 youngsters said their goodbyes as students of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary yesterday morning during a farewell ceremony that recognized their efforts and accomplishments throughout their years as grade school students.

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### Arroyo Wins?

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo won a narrow victory over her movie star rival in the May 10 vote, national election officials said Monday, although her opponent claimed massive fraud and warned of a "people power" revolt.

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### David Reborn

Michelangelo's "David" is brighter but hardly spotless after the completion Monday of a controversial cleaning timed for the 500th birthday of one of the marvels of world art.

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# NMI seeks return of \$160M

## Local govt tries to recover taxes paid to feds

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO  
REPORTER

The CNMI government is looking at the possibility of collecting over \$160 million in what it terms as "cover over"—a form of federal tax paid to the U.S. government that needs to be returned to the Commonwealth.

Sources at the Treasury Department disclosed yesterday that negotiation is now ongoing between the U.S. administration and the Commonwealth government for the expeditious recovery of the said amount owed by the U.S. to the CNMI.

Sources said that under existing laws, the U.S. government should return to the CNMI those taxes paid to the federal government by certain employees and businesses based in the Commonwealth. That money, which the local government now estimates at \$160 million plus, had not been returned to the Northern Marianas for several years, the source added.

"That is the case. The money should be turned over but for sometime, the money was not returned," the source said.

The official explained that the CNMI  
**See NMI on Page 8**

## Pete A.: Proposed wage hike unrealistic

The recent introduction of two minimum wage legislations affecting the CNMI, which Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio described as "drastic," only underscores the need for a CNMI delegate in the nation's capitol.

"This is the one of the biggest reasons the CNMI needs a delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives. It would be very difficult for other members of Congress to introduce legislation affecting us so drastically if we had a delegate," said Tenorio.

He said the two wage bills—H.R. 4256 and S. 2370—introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate, calls for an unrealistic increase in the CNMI's minimum wage in a very short period of time.

"Implementation of such a law, if it were passed, would drive many of our struggling businesses to close their doors all together. There would be dramatic losses in the number of jobs," he stressed.

He said both bills are exactly the same  
**See PETE on Page 8**



LIBERTY DONES

### A TALE OF MALLARD

Garapan Elementary School upper grade students lead the distribution of GES' newly published book, Mariana Mallard: Duck Stories From Around The World, to their fellow students Tuesday morning. The book is retold and illustrated by Young Writers' workshop students under the supervision of Katharyn Tuten-Puckett and Manual Flores Borja. All GES students totaling over 800 teachers and guests received a copy of the book. In photo are Grade 6 teacher Alex Lorzano, principal Boni Gomez, and Tuten-Puckett, partly hidden.

## MVA explains its choice of Vicky

By BRAD E. RUSZALA  
REPORTER

The law that gives the Marianas Visitors Authority board the power to appoint the agency's managing director does not set a specific standard for that position, does not require a minimum educational background, does not require a degree in higher education or specialized work

experience, and does not require the MVA to advertise a vacancy for the post if such a vacancy exists.

These were pointed out by MVA board of directors chair David M. Sablan in his



Sablan

written response to applicant James A. Santos, who had claimed that he felt "discriminated against" when the board chose Vicky Benavente over him for the position. Santos, an economist at the Commerce Department, had asked the MVA to explain why he was not chosen and to enumerate the criteria in its decision to hire Benavente.

**See MVA on Page 8**

## 3 students awarded Junior Statesmen grant

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO  
REPORTER

Three CNMI students received certificates of recognition from the 2004 Junior Statesmen Summer School Program Monday night, enabling them to attend the mainland-based program on a scholarship provided by the Office of Insular Affairs.

In a brief ceremony, Stanford School director Christi L. Omengabar and Office of Insular Affairs director Jeff Schorr handed the certificates to Casey Camacho Borja, Tinian High School; Emmanuel Borja, Mount Carmel High School; and Nicole Benjamin, Grace Christian Academy. Casey Borja, who was unable to attend, was represented by his mother Elaine.

Parents attended the ceremony, which was held at Pizza Hut in Middle Road, along with the 37 CNMI students who

**See 3 STUDENTS on Page 8**



EDITH G. ALEJANDRO

Office of Insular Affairs director Jeff Schorr poses with recipients of the Junior Statesmen Summer School Program full scholarship: Emmanuel Borja (center) Nicole Benjamin (right), and Elaine Borja, who received the certificate on behalf of her daughter Casey Borja during a ceremony Monday night at the Pizza Hut.



Local

Govt says it has \$4.3M in excess funds

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO  
REPORTER

The Babauta administration has a total of \$4.3 million in excess funds as of April 30, 2004, be-lying reports that it would not meet projected revenue in Fis-cal Year 2005 as proposed in its \$226 million budget appropria-tion for next fiscal year.

In line with this, Gov. Juan N. Babauta continues to seek the help of all government agencies and departments to help him implement stricter

austerity measures so that the government would not exceed the \$213.6 million budget for this fiscal year.

Based on the CNMI Overall Fund Status Fiscal Year 2004 report, the government hopes to collect this fiscal year an estimated \$218.1 million in taxes—a \$4.3 million uptick compared with the \$213.6 mil-lion collected last fiscal year.

This is based on the ongoing trend in government collections covering October 2003 to April 30, 2004. In that period, the

CNMI government has already collected \$118.7 million—a 0.8 percent increase from the \$118.6 million collected during the same period in fiscal year 2003.

During the same seven-month period, the CNMI government expended \$122.7 million in total operating resources—a 0.4 percent decrease from the \$123.3 million spent during the same period.

The report further disclosed that, as of April 30, 2004, eight departments under the Executive Branch have positive fund bal-

ances that reached \$4.32 million.

The report says the Depart-ment of Community and Cultural Affairs has a positive fund bal-ance of \$367,514; Department of Labor, \$270,171; Department of Lands and Natural Resources, \$310,475; Department of Com-merce, \$152,818; Department of Finance, \$514,861; Department of Public Works, \$736,756; the Governor’s Office, \$347,565; the Attorney General’s Office, \$409,195; and other sources amounting to \$1.2 million.

According to the governor,

the balances will possibly be used to cover the shortfalls incurred by other agencies, including the Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Health and utilities.

The report added that as of April 30, 2004, the CNMI gov-ernment had expended \$126.8 million but the budget allocated was only \$124.6 million. The

government has incurred \$2.18 million shortfall.

Other revenue sources listed by the government for the FY2004 are the Compact Impact pay-ments amounting to \$5.1 million, Tobacco Control Fund Repro-gramming amounting to \$1.8 million, and Tobacco Settle-ment Fund Reprogramming, amounting to \$1.2 million.

Court orders AGO to put Pam Brown’s name in Torres’ case

By LIBERTY DONES  
REPORTER

The Superior Court denied yesterday a motion to dismiss a case against former congress-man Stanley Torres and two other defendants but ordered the government prosecutor to revise the case information and specifically put the name of the Attorney General.

Associate judge Juan T. Lizama said in his ruling that, while in most cases the identity of the Attorney General is not an issue, it must be supplied in Torres, et al case.

“Where the identity of the [Attorney General] is relevant to the defense, a defendant is entitled to know the identity of the Attorney General under whose authority penal summons issue and informations are filed and to have this stated on the record. Therefore, in this case, the court hereby orders the government to amend the in-formation to include the name of the Attorney General from whom the signing attorney(s) claim authority,” Lizama said.

He “strongly encouraged” the government to include such information “in all future sub-missions in criminal cases.”

Torres and his co-defendants, Dorothy Sablan and Frank Ada, earlier petitioned the court to quash the penal summons and information filed by the AGO for not bearing the name of At-torney General Pam Brown.

Torres’ legal counsels Robert Torres and Perry Inos argued that Art. III Section 11 of the CNMI Constitution provides in pertinent part that the “Attorney General shall be responsible for...prosecuting violations of criminal law.”

As such, they argued that the Attorney General is the sole person charged with the power to prosecute criminals cases and all prosecutions must be brought in the Attorney General’s name.

They further said that rules provide that each information “shall be signed by the attorney for the government.”

The Attorney General’s Of-fice, represented by chief pros-ecutor David Hutton and deputy

attorney general Clyde Lemons, argued that neither the name nor the signature of the Attorney General is required by either the Constitution or court rules.

They said the Attorney General may delegate the power to insti-tute criminal prosecutions to oth-ers in the office and the “attorney for the government,” under the rules, “can be any attorney who has authority delegated from the Attorney General.”

Lizama, in his ruling, said that the court must agree with the government.

He said that, while there is no question that the Attorney Gen-eral is designated by the Consti-tution as the official empowered to bring criminal prosecution, there is also no question that the Attorney General may delegate a portion of that power to others.

Lizama said that delegation may include the right and power to produce, sign, and submit criminal information.

Further, he said that Rule 7 requires only that a criminal information be signed by an at-torney who has a proper author-ity from the Attorney General, not necessarily the Attorney General him- or herself.

“The court must conclude that there is no right under our con-stitution to have the Attorney General named in an informa-tion or to have the signature of the Attorney General attached,” said Lizama.

But to avoid confusion, he said “it is the better practice to attach the name of the At-torney General.”

The defendants are charged with numerous crimes involv-ing theft, misconduct in public office, and illegal use of public resources.

Torres is being charged in court for allegedly hiring a ghost employee, Dorothy Sablan, when he was still in office.

Sablan allegedly received at least five checks totaling \$5,384.67 in government pay-roll in 2003, when she was actu-ally off-island.

Ada allegedly prepared fraudulent time and atten-dance sheets indicating that Sablan rendered work when she was off-island.

outlander  
cmyk

# Express mail service to see improvements

On March 1, the U.S. Postal Service implemented new procedures for Express Mail service to the CNMI, Guam, the Freely Associated States and American Samoa. The new procedures called for the use of a different or custom designed label for Express Mail addressed to any of these locations. Unfortunately, most post offices in the U.S. mainland were not supplied with the labels and staff were not trained in its use. This essentially made Express Mail to the western Pacific unavailable. Many mainland companies who regularly ship to these locations via Express Mail were faced with the challenge of shipping via a slower USPS produce such as Priority Mail or switching to a more expensive private carrier.

Express Mail is the USPS' guaranteed overnight or 2nd day delivery option. Due to distance and the International Date Line, it is impossible to deliver Express Mail items to the western Pacific locations in the time guaranteed. After an Inspector General study determined that the USPS was losing money because shippers were requesting reimbursement, it discontinued its regular Express Mail service.

"If the problem was just that our mail needed a special label it would not have been a very big problem. Unfortunately the USPS is a very big organization and word had not spread to the staff behind the counters. My own staff were told that they could not send Express Mail at all to the CNMI."

"When this problem came to my attention, I immediately contacted the USPS and began a dialogue with them regarding this change," said CNMI Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio.

"After the USPS field tested their new procedures they came to agree with us that there was a larger problem. I met with them last Friday where they conveyed their new training plan and that they are updating their computer system."

"The ultimate goal is to have their rules changed allowing for a three day delivery option for our area of the country, this will unfortunately take over a year," said Tenorio.

Express Mail service from the CNMI or other affected areas to the U.S. mainland has not changed. Postal Service employees can still utilize the regular label.



**FUN RUN BENEFICIARY**  
The non-profit organization, The Library Friends, receives the proceeds collected from the 2004 Ayuda Fun Run, amounting to \$1,005. The Library Friends benefits the Joeten Kiyu Library. Every year, the Marianas Visitors Authority coordinates the Ayuda Fun Run and the proceeds are donated to a non-profit organization within the community. This year's event on Saipan attracted 67 members of the community.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Landowner sues MPLA, DPW for nonpayment

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

A landowner has sued the Marianas Public Lands Authority and the Department of Public Works for breach of agreements, misrepresentation of facts, and gross disregard of a major land acquisition for over a decade now.

Jose Ch. Camacho, through lawyer Robert Torres, said that in Dec. 1990, DPW executed a memorandum of understanding with him and his siblings for right-of-way acquisition of their lands in As Lito for public use: reconstruction of the As Lito road, installation of a drainage system, and installation of a new power distribution system.

Camacho's property includes three parcels of lands totaling 737 square meters.

In June 1991, then Gov. Larry DeLeon Guerrero issued a certification for land exchange for Camacho's property, justifying its acquisition as "an absolute necessity for public use."

The certification tasked the MPLA, at that time known as Marianas Public Land Corp., to pursue the land exchange with Camacho.

In April 1992, MPLC issued a formal compensation offer to Camacho at \$90 per square meter for a fee simple interest and an additional \$299,000 for severance damage.

Torres said that MPLC failed to tender performance and never paid his client. Instead, he said that in Jan. 1993, MPLA issued three letters to confirm and document the parties' mutual understanding and agreement about the proposed exchange.

MPLC, then headed by execu-

tive director William Concepcion, offered to exchange Camacho's property in As Lito with a set of property in the Obyan area.

Camacho agreed to the exchange plus a total compensation valuation of \$563,250.

Torres said that unknown to Camacho, however, MPLC leased the Obyan property to a business group in 1994. He said MPLC entered into an agreement with Pacific Resort Development Inc. and Haas and Haynie resorts for the use of "the very parcel that MPLC had unequivocally committed to Camacho."

"In utter disregard of the land exchange agreement, MPLC failed to tender the Obyan property," said Torres.

He said Camacho has heard nothing from MPLA nor has the government bothered to tender compensation, despite the government's taking and use of the property. This, he said, constitutes unconstitutional taking of property.

Torres noted that the 1992 monetary compensation offer of over \$563,00 by MPLC constitutes a contract to pay Camacho.

The Obyan land offer, he said, constitutes an agreement to exchange land, which is enforceable as to its terms.

Further, Torres said that the certification has never been reversed, modified, or withdrawn by the government.

He said the breach of the land compensation and land exchange agreements were "willful and intentional and were perpetrated in conscious disregard."

Torres said his client suffered compensatory, consequential, and incidental damages, including the loss of property.

In misrepresenting the truth about the Obyan property, Torres said that the government essentially engaged in "affirmative misconduct beyond mere negligence."

Camacho's property is being used right now as part of the paved secondary road serving local residents and as a road known as Chalan Monsignor Martinez, which is a major thoroughfare going to the airport, Koblerville, and other areas.

At the same time, the property is being used by other agencies for utility lines.

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pierre rest.



COMMUNITY

Briefs

2004 Liberation Fest meeting

The Liberation Committee would like to call on all individuals and parties with interests relating to the 2004 Liberation Parades and Float Competition. The committee would also like to meet with Entertainers, Ethnic Dancers and Performers to discuss participation in this year's Liberation Festivities. The meeting will take place on May 29, at 7pm at the Multi-Purpose Center.

To all the CNMI Cursillistas

The schedule of events at the Maturana House of Prayer in preparation for the 8th Cursillo Men's Weekend of May 28-31, 2004 are:

|           |        |        |                                   |
|-----------|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| Wednesday | May 26 | 7pm    |                                   |
| Thursday  | May 27 | 7pm    |                                   |
| Friday    | May 28 | 4:30pm | Eucharistic Celebration for Staff |
|           |        | 6:30pm | Candidates Registration           |
|           |        | 7:30pm | Welcoming                         |
| Sunday    | May 30 | 12pm   | High Noon                         |
| Monday    | May 31 | 5:30pm | Clausura                          |

For more information, contact Stan Benavente 288-7826 or Pai Taitano 664-2244/234-1103.

Taekwondo Youth Summer Camp

The Ada Gym Taekwondo Club will be hosting a Taekwondo Summer Camp this June and July, 2004. Registration will be held on May 25, Tuesday, and May 27, Thursday, from 4pm through 6pm, and on May 29, Saturday, from 10am until noon at the Ada Gym Taekwondo Room. This is an introductory course for the beginning student of martial arts. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30pm until 6pm starting June 1 and ending July 29. For more information, contact Master Ron Loctao at 288-5128.

Celebration at the Park

On May 31, Memorial Day, the CNMI will be paying tribute to fallen members of the U.S. Armed Forces, remembering those who served the nation so that its citizens may enjoy the fruits of a democratic society.

"We would like to invite all veterans, their families, families of those departed veterans, the local Marine Scout, and the public to come and join us celebrate this memorable day at the Veterans Memorial Park in Susupe at 9am," according to the Veterans Affairs Office.

Special Mass for military men and women

A special mass service will be said on Sunday, May 30, 2004, at 9am at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral for all active duty military members, reservist, local Marine Scouts and veterans who have participated/deployed in the past, present and future to any areas of conflicts around the world. Their families and the public are highly encouraged to attend this mass.

DEQ sets deadline for water report

The Division of Environmental Quality would like to announce to the owners and/or operators of all community public water systems that the due date for the annual Consumer Confidence Report for 2003 is on or before July 1, 2004.

All Community Public Water Systems are required to gather all 2003 analytical results and violations, if any, and produce a consumer confidence report, which will be disseminated to all consumers as well as provide a copy to DEQ.

DEQ also looks forward to reviewing and hopes to find all CCR's in exceptional order.

For additional information on the 2003 CCR, contact Tripler Dela Cruz of the DEQ Safe Drinking Water Branch at 664-8500/01.

Red Cross annual membership meeting

The Northern Marianas Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold its annual membership meeting tomorrow, May 27, 2004, at 5:30pm, at the Chapter Office (234-3459) on Airport Road, San Vicente, Saipan. The purpose of the meeting is to hold elections for the voting members of its Board of Directors, review reports, Chapter Directors, and transact other business as it may come before the membership meeting.

LibDay concession forms available

Food concession application forms for the upcoming Liberation Day Festival are now available for pick up at the Arts Council office. For more information, call Angel S. Hocog at 322-9982/3 or George Fitial at 664-2568/9.

Outrigger racing series ongoing

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Association Outrigger Racing Series will continue every Saturday until May 29. The event is open to the public and will be a great opportunity for everyone to share in the culture and competition.

| FLIGHT SCHEDULE JAN OF MAY 04, 0404 |      |      |      |      |                 |      |      |      |      |
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# House to hold fact-finding on CUC problem

By **EDITH G. ALEJANDRO**  
REPORTER

The House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication would sit down with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Friday to discuss several issues affecting the agency, particularly problems on power outages.

According to committee chair and Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez, the meeting is set at 9am. He said the meeting hopes to shed light on various problems besetting the utility corporation.

House consultant Mike Geisenger said the discussion, which he termed as a fact-finding meeting, would focus on power outages, its causes, and

effects on the community. He said that CUC had already forwarded to the committee its response to various issues raised by the House following complaints received from the community.

“We are still looking at it and we are reviewing it [CUC response]. The fact-finding on Friday would give us the opportunity to discuss all these issues,” said Geisenger.

Last week, Villagomez asked CUC to explain and clarify reports that the CNMI’s power system is “on the verge of a meltdown.” He asked CUC officials to meet with the committee to discuss the urgency of the situation, which could affect businesses and potential investors in the Northern Marianas.

“The committee is very anxious to discuss the problems that are plaguing the power generation system. The information that we have received described the situation as a serious crisis. Some have even suggested that the power system is on the verge of a meltdown,” said the vice speaker.

Because of what he described as the “urgency of the situation due to numerous scheduled power outages,” the PUTC hopes to conduct the meeting at the earliest convenient time.

According to the vice speaker, the meeting would not only dwell on the power outages but would explore other issues, including pending Capital

Improvement Projects under CUC’s authority.

He said these power outages might be disrupting services not only in the government sector but private businesses as well. Also, a stable power supply is a measure used by potential investors and the lack of it would lessen possible business proposals.

The other issue that may be tackled Friday is the complaints on the pay scale reductions at the CUC in line with the salary restructuring at the agency.

The new compensation and reclassification regulation required by the Office of the Public Auditor, which was adopted in Jan. 2004, is aimed

at setting a standard personnel classification and compensation at the utility firm. In adopting FLA’s findings, the CUC board raised the CUC’s entry annual pay to \$15,000 from \$11,000 and \$13,000.

Aside from the restructuring of salary scale, the Fox Lawson Compensation Study also had recommended to CUC the incorporation of hazardous and night differential pay in the employee’s basic pay while typhoon and on-call pay will continue to be given on top of the basic pay.

Based on the audit report made by the OPA, it noted that almost 18 percent of the CUC personnel are receiving on-call

pay, which was not addressed in its interim Personnel Manual.

The Fox Lawson and Associates also reported that overall, CUC employees’ salaries are below the national market but above the Pacific market and its benefit package is also above the market level.

It cited that overall, CUC salaries are: 1 percent below the overall market, 13.7 percent below the mainland market, and 15.1 percent above the Pacific market.

Fox Lawson said it ran three analyses and compared them with CUC. These included all participants (mainland and Pacific), mainland participants only, and Pacific participants only.

## 4.9 quake strikes off Anatahan isle

The Emergency Management Office seismograph detected an earthquake early yesterday morning in the vicinity of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A statement from EMO indicated that the temblor occurred around 6:16am.

According to EMO’s geophysical seismic technician Juan T. Camacho, the quake registered 4.9 on the Richter scale with a depth of 57 miles; however, it did not have any apparent significant impact on the island.

The quake was felt on Saipan, with several residents heard talking about the incident.

Camacho said that, as of yesterday morning, no damage or injuries have been reported.

Preliminary information was compiled by the EMO Seismic Section in coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey, National Earthquake Information Center Denver.

The quake was located at 15.916 North 145.73 East, or about 25 miles south of Anatahan, 50 miles north of Saipan, and 130 miles northeast of Rota.

Last March, the EMO also reported a 4.9 quake off the Anatahan isle. Late last year, the EMO reported a quake with an intensity of 4.8 off of Agrihan.

For further information, contact Ramon C. Chong or Juan T. Camacho at the EMO Seismic section at 322-8001/2/3. *(Shan Seman)*

## TES bids two teachers farewell

Students, teachers, and administrators at the Tanapag Elementary School held a brief ceremony yesterday morning, honoring two teachers who will be missed as soon as the school year concludes.

Teachers Brigida Ichihara and Juana Ngiraidong were both overcome with emotion, touched by the unique ceremony that had both of them receiving hugs from each student, teacher, and staff of the school.

Ichihara is a retiree who returned to the teaching profession, but will meet the two-year limit of working in the government sector at the end of the school year. She handled Kindergarten students.

Prior to her stint at the school, she served two years as a congresswoman, and served as an educator at Koblerville Elementary School and Tanapag Elementary School.

For her part, Ngiraidong, a second grade teacher, will

transfer to Koblerville Elementary School.

According to TES vice principal Escolastica Iguel, Ngiraidong changed her residence to the southern village, resulting in her transfer.

“The principals try to make things convenient for our teachers,” said Iguel. “It will be a lot easier for her to teach in Koblerville because that is where she will be living.”

Iguel said of the two teachers, “They are very dedicated and committed to educating the children. Both are very excellent teachers. They are devoted and it showed because they came to class every day—perfect attendance.”

The ceremony also included a cultural dance performance courtesy of the school’s first-grade bilingual students. Iguel said the mixed group performed a Carolinian stick dance, and was instructed by teacher Juana Achen. *(Shan Seman)*

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+red



# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### The shape of US shapes

**H**ere, just in time for the next swimsuit season, comes a new view of the American body, that thing we all live in and sometimes care for. Bottom line: It's changing.

Unless you've been working out at the gym for the last six years with the mute button on, you have heard that many parts of Americans in most parts are getting larger and, to be candid, fatter. Because it's more convenient and comfortable to blame food producers than individual food choosers, chewers and swallowers, much of this enlarging America has been blamed on the industry called fast food.

Fast is deemed good in modern America—fast cars, times, feet, hands, minds, work. Slow today is generally considered bad or, worse, old. E-mail replies taking 30 minutes are an affront. Zero to 60 in 16 seconds is bad.

So fast food would seem like a good thing for Americans. However, although these tidbits are cooked and served fast and downed even faster, their fatty residues stick around a long time in various body areas.

Using tape measures in 1941, federal officials quietly gauged thousands of Americans to determine average military uniform sizes. Using a light-pulsing 3-D body scanner, SizeUSA, a coalition of universities, military branches and clothing and textile companies, has just measured 240 parts on more than 10,000 Americans in 13 cities. The results bump the average female size from a standard 8 to 12, and the average male well beyond the old 40 regular, especially in the body's tropical region. Though average heights (men, 5 feet 9; women, 5 feet 4) stayed steady over the last decade, average weights jumped to 180 pounds for males and 148 for females, an increase of 16 quarter-pounders in 10 years.

Fast food is convenient but presents problems. Resulting health concerns are obvious, especially obesity. Hopeless dieting has become a big industry and passion for many, who dwell more often on what they could not resist than what they forsook. Working out while watching fast-food ads on TV helps burn off the calories you couldn't resist putting on after yesterday's workout.

We're downing more calories than our parents and past generations; more than, say, the Pilgrims munched before mooching from the Indians. More food in more weight on. To accommodate bodies expanding faster than minds, kindly clothiers have unobtrusively enlarged what a size 8 or 40 is, meaning your average grandparents would be lost in both. In the SizeUSA study, 51 percent of men but only 38 percent of women described themselves as "about the right weight." Only 10 percent of men but fully 21 percent of women admitted being "quite a bit overweight," further proof that people change sizes more easily than self-image.

2004, Los Angeles Times



### Arts of development

By **SEBASTIAN MALLABY**  
The Washington Post

**A** strange reversal is underway in the development business.

A young blond Dane, who shows up at business meetings in a black T-shirt and sneakers, convened a conclave of high-powered economists Monday in Copenhagen. His goal is to determine, by means of mathematical regressions, the proper development priorities for poor countries. You've heard of the Washington Consensus, the set of economic prescriptions imposed on poor countries by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Now comes the Copenhagen Consensus.

Meanwhile, the ex-Wall Streeter who runs the World Bank is off in the opposite direction. Last week he showed up at Rome's Circus Maximus for a concert featuring the garbage-can clangers from the Broadway show "Stomp"; he was introduced by actress Angelina Jolie, which was a pretty good reason to go. On Tuesday he convenes a grand development conference in Shanghai. It will eschew prescriptions, and there won't be much math. It will be Copenhagen inverted.

The Dane, Bjorn Lomborg, is hitherto known for disputing pessimistic environmental projections in a book called "The Skeptical Environmentalist." He has divided the problems of poor countries into 10 categories—disease, financial instability, conflict and so on—and commissioned a paper from a top economist on each. The economists are to consider the cost-effectiveness of three interventions in their assigned categories. Within the health category, for example, donors could prioritize malaria or HIV or a general scaling up of health services.

In Copenhagen this week, an international committee of economic superstars, featuring four Nobel laureates, will consider all the development interventions for which Lomborg has collected cost-benefit estimates. The panel will cross-examine the 10 authors about their statistical techniques, then issue a league table of the 30-plus interventions, ranked scientifically according to value for money. Aid donors will be expected to shift their dollars to the top ones—or face questions from the Copenhagen crew about why they're wasting money.

The first objections to this exercise aren't exactly crushing. Yes, cost-benefit analysis is inexact, involving heroic projections far into the future. But it's better to attempt such estimates than to spend aid dollars blindly. Yes, donors waste money in ways that are already known to be dumb—tying it to purchases from their own companies, for example—so it's doubtful whether new knowledge will improve their behavior. But the best shot at reducing waste is surely to expose it.

The real problem with the Copenhagen Consensus is that aid

investment, like most investment, is subject to diminishing returns. Imagine that aid donors really did respond to the Lomborg league table and piled all their money into the top three interventions on his list. Soon those problems might be absorbing as much money as they usefully could—and value for money in other cash-starved areas might quickly become greater.

Something similar happened with the recent explosion in AIDS funding. Two or three years back, the lack of money to fight HIV was scandalous. Today most decent AIDS projects are awash in cash, and other causes such as vitamin deficiency and malaria are underfunded.

Because of the law of diminishing returns, development priorities will shift at the global level. But they will also vary by country. Perhaps Brazil's most urgent need right now is slum-upgrading projects, whereas Uganda needs transport and Indonesia needs to fight corruption; if all three countries pursue these priorities diligently for a few years, the list will soon look different. A static global list of priorities won't capture that variety. Which leads to the conclusion that despondent development theorists have reached before: The search for silver bullets is doomed. No amount of brilliant top-down analysis can solve the problems of world poverty.

What can solve them? The answer is pragmatic leaders who wrestle with development challenges as they come up, paying less attention to the theoretically perfect solution than to effective implementation. So long as a country gets some basic things right—so long as it targets exports, protects private property and avoids ruinous inflation—the precise policy it chooses matters less than its ability to put it in place and then to adapt as circumstance demands, so there's constant learning by doing. Places as diverse as China, Vietnam, India and Uganda, each pursuing somewhat different strategies, have made marvelous progress. Thanks to their lead, the number of people living on less than \$1 a day has declined by 375 million since 1981—without any Copenhagen league table.

The conference that opens Tuesday in Shanghai, convened by World Bank President James Wolfensohn, will celebrate this pragmatism. Rather than treating development as a quasi-science, it will present it as an art, in which the heroes are the resourceful managers who implement programs. In place of top-down analysis by first-world econometricians, it will feature bottom-up case studies presented by third-world practitioners. Just about every speaker in the two-day program will come from the developing world; the delegates from the rich North will be there to listen to them. It will be hard to turn the conference into newspaper headlines. But it will have captured the real spirit of development.

Mallaby is an editorial writer for The Washington Post.



## Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

# In defense of Azmar

Wise men have taught me to ignore ignorant Letters to the Editor. However, there are times when statements are made which require clarification, or outright denunciation. This [Letter to the Editor—May 24, 2004] is one of them. Besides that, as an eternal optimist, I see this as an opportunity to spread the truth about Azmar.

The letter was both erroneous and malicious. The errors of fact were so gross so as to render the entire letter incredulous. Furthermore, the letter made a personal attack against not only me, but also Mr. Moore, the Mayor of the Northern Mariana Islands, the MPLA Board of Directors and their staff, the Governor and Lt. Governor, CRM, DEQ, EPA and the great majority of CNMI citizens who have been anxiously awaiting the new source of revenues that will flow into the CNMI as a result of the development of the pozzolan deposit on Pagan.

So please spare a few paragraphs of your time to read the following corrections to the accumulated wealth of misinformation that has been spread about Mr. Moore and Azmar International. To paraphrase Dr. Seuss, as did one of the eloquent speakers at the recent NMC graduation, "Those who matter, won't mind the space I take. And for those who mind, it doesn't matter."

As a former biology teacher at Tinian High School, I am insulted that anyone would categorize me as a money-grubbing anti-environmentalist bent on destroying Pagan for personal gain. Nothing could be further from the truth. This can be verified by any number of biologists and environmentalists from the Northern Marianas College and the University of Guam, who I have already contacted to help collect data and record the evolution of the island environment beginning with the day we break ground on Pagan. We hope to get the University of Arizona involved in the publication of the primary data. This group, along with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, will also help finalize a plan for the reforestation and revitalization of Pagan and its rejuvenation as an eco-tourism destination.

It is foolish to even think about strip-mining on Pagan. The pozzolan is a coating of ash that came out of the volcano when it erupted. It is sitting on the surface of the island around the volcano. We must use every effort to scoop off the pozzolan without touching whatever top soil may exist beneath it. In fact, the top soil would be a contaminant in the pozzolan. It would degrade the value of the product and therefore lower its price.

Listen to these words: Azmar will not destroy Pagan's black sand beach. It is not necessary, and we wouldn't do it anyway. The burden of wetland mitigation would be too heavy. The ship will be loaded at the south end of the beach, well away from the brackish water pond. Mr. Moore and I and the rest of the team plan on spending many a night with the workers, the returning residents and the new residents who decide to make a go of it on Pagan, sitting on that black sand beach and watching the sun set.

The members of the board of directors of MPLA are owed an apology, as are their staff and the people at CRM, DEQ, etc. There is no way they would allow anyone to rape Pagan. I know many of those individuals, and I know them to be competent and dedicated professionals. The MPLA board has certainly gone out of its way to fulfill its fiduciary responsibility to the public. Anyone who has attended a board meeting can attest to that. The other agencies will do likewise and we look forward to working cooperatively with each of them, as we have with MPLA.

We at Azmar share Mr. Moore's vision for the future of Pagan and the CNMI. We see the day when the redevelopment of Pagan, funded from the proceeds of a business venture established there, will serve as an international model of business working with government for the benefit of both with a diligent eye toward the future. We recognize that the real future of Pagan is in its location and its natural environment. We believe that it is inevitable that at some time in the future, the land we have cleared of pozzolan will become the centerfold of Pagan as a visitor destination, a model ecosystem, self-sufficient and respected as the fourth Senatorial District of the CNMI. Azmar will remain there, supporting that community through the extraction and sale of pozzolan for at least the next two decades. As the pozzolan is removed, the economic base of the community will gradually shift toward eco-tourism. I know that Mr. Moore and the rest of the Azmar team look forward to the day when Pagan supports a five-star, fly-in fishing resort. You can bet on this. I know this—I am going to catch a marlin up there within a year!

Equally important to Mr. Moore is his commitment to the residents of Pagan who were forced off the island by its eruption in 1981. He personally called upon the Mayor of the Northern

See IN DEFENSE on Page 8

# Sudanese killings must be stopped

By ROBERTA COHEN

Special to Newsday

What is being called the World's greatest humanitarian disaster today is occurring in Sudan, 10 years after the genocide in nearby Rwanda.

Arab militias (the "Janjaweed"), backed by the Sudanese government, are carrying out deliberate mass murders, deportations, rapes and abductions of black Africans, belonging to the Fur, Massalit and Zaghawa farming communities, in the western province of Darfur. Tens of thousands have died and more than 1 million people have been driven from their homes.

And, as in Rwanda before, the international community still has no effective means of stopping the violence, which is all part of a racially motivated ethnic cleansing campaign.

A cease-fire agreed to by Sudan's government on April 8 has not ended the strafing and burning of villages and the destruction of irrigation systems and crops. Behind the attacks is both the desire of Arab herders to take over the black Africans' land and the Khartoum government's attempt to suppress demands for more resources and more power sharing for the impoverished Darfur region.

A senior American official predicts that 100,000 to 400,000 people will die in Darfur from starvation and disease if relief workers cannot reach those forcibly pushed into squalid camps where they remain subject to severe abuse. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, President Bush and other world leaders have issued appeals, but the government of Sudan continues to block humanitarian workers from reaching many of the men, women and children at risk.

Clearly, stronger measures will be needed if 10 years from now Darfur is not to become the object of regrets and apologies, just like Rwanda. The U.N. secretary-general has called for "swift" action, including military force as a last resort, should full access to Darfur be denied. But these words need to be backed up by enough diplomatic and political muscle to make the Khartoum government take notice.

The United States has been one of the driving forces behind the peace process in Sudan between the Islamic government in the north and the largely Christian animist south, represented by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). Indeed, the Bush administration has invested heavily in a prospective peace set-

tlement while the Sudanese government has looked to normalizing its relations with America and getting sanctions lifted. The United States has thus far refrained from using its full leverage to confront the government out of fear that pressing the Darfur crisis could jeopardize the north-south peace process, but it should not be in the position of helping negotiate a peace agreement with one group of rebels while the Sudanese government commits atrocities against another. It should make clear that unless the atrocities are stopped, and a political process set up to deal with Darfur's grievances, the Sudanese government can forget about normalized relations.

At the same time the United States should seek action by the U.N. Security Council, which to date has been reluctant to put pressure on Sudan. The council should insist upon an end to attacks on defenseless people, full and immediate access in the region for humanitarian aid workers, and the deployment of peacekeepers to ensure that aid is delivered and that the displaced refugees can return home in safety. It should also call upon France, with troops in neighboring Chad, to protect Darfuri refugees from cross-border attacks.

The United States should also urge African leaders to play a far greater role in putting out the fires in the heart of their own region. Africa's regional body, the African Union, helped the parties in Darfur to agree on the cease-fire, but it still has not deployed a commission to monitor compliance with the agreement, although it has finally sent in a reconnaissance mission. African states should be the first to offer peacekeepers, under a Security Council mandate.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid will be needed to address this emergency. Given America's focus on Iraq, European donors as well as Japan, with its human security fund, should be encouraged to contribute the lion's share of humanitarian aid and reconstruction assistance.

Darfur might seem to be a faraway place, but if the history of the 20th century has taught any lesson it is that the world community cannot afford to stand idly by while large numbers of people are subject to killings and starvation. Even in the most remote corner of the globe, such crises rarely stay contained. They spill over borders, as the Darfur crisis is now doing in Chad. Ultimately they affect us all.

Cohen is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and co-director of the Brookings-SAIS Project on International Displacement.

# Putin rides high on Russians' need for stability

By LEON ARON

Special to Newsday

Vladimir Putin's lopsided victory in Russia's March 14 presidential election has been widely ascribed to the Kremlin's neo-authoritarian interference in the political process, including its manipulation of the media and intimidation of the opposition.

Yet, the picture is far more complicated. To attribute Putin's triumph—or his popularity—solely to semi-authoritarian political technology is to mislead the American public and American policy-makers.

His re-election is part of a broad, multifaceted post-revolutionary "restoration" that, in one form or another, has followed every great revolution.

Putin's victory margin makes clear that we are dealing with a phenomenon that extends well beyond campaign shenanigans. In addition to Russia's recent strong economic performance, he was re-elected because Russians have an intense longing for predictability, security and continuity after a decade of political and economic revolution, a relentless and dizzying onslaught of the new, and the taxing choices and responsibilities of freedom.

As in all previous post-revolutionary restorations, there is a shift in popular sentiment from a near-total negation of the old regime to a desire for a partial recovery of traditional policies, institutions and symbols.

Unlike the radical liberal intelligentsia, a plurality of Russians over 40 is not ready to dismiss the entire Soviet past. Among their cherished memories, they are proud of the Soviet Union's victory over Germany in World War II, its nuclear parity with the United States and its pioneering achievements in space exploration.

It is because of his remarkable "fit" into this national consensus that Putin has accrued much of his extraordinary popularity. Instinctively or by design (or, likely, both), he has come to embody and symbolize to millions of Russians a still very precarious balance between freedom and order, and between the old and the new.

Asked in a March nationwide survey what "democracy" meant to them, 44 percent of Russians singled out the freedoms of speech, press and religion. The next three most popular items on the 10-point list were "prosperity" (31 percent), "order and

stability" (29 percent), and "strict rule of law" (24 percent).

From his first day in office, Putin unambiguously has declared tangible improvements in the latter three areas to be the core of his agenda. As far as public perception is concerned, he has succeeded.

Putin owes much of his popularity to an uncanny natural ability to make millions of people think that he is just like them. Like most Russians—who are roughly divided between those who believe Josef Stalin was a "bloody dictator" and those who remember him as "a great military commander" and the man who made Russia a great power—Putin deplores "totalitarianism" for its lack of freedom and its concentration camps.

Putin seems genuinely to admire his predecessor, Boris Yeltsin, as the post-Soviet leader who gave Russia freedom. Simultaneously, like most Russians, he recalls the Yeltsin era as a time when the business oligarchs were "appointed billionaires" and state officials stuffed their pockets under the cover of state interests.

In addition, unlike his two immediate predecessors, Mikhail Gorbachev and Yeltsin, Putin was never a Communist Party leader and, indeed, resigned from the party in the wake of the attempted putsch by Communist hard-liners in August 1991.

Yet perhaps above all, Putin is associated with the key feature of the new consensus: the desire for a stronger state and more effective central government to enforce the laws, secure public order, and protect the weak and the poor—even at the expense of some (but by no means all) newly gained liberties.

The Putin restoration is not a Soviet restoration. Rather, it is likely to produce an amalgam of neo-authoritarian trends in politics, neo-statist ones in the economy, and nostalgia for the Soviet Union's global reach and military might—all coexisting with a number of democratic liberties, private property, entrepreneurship, market reforms and accommodation in the international arena.

Remember, revolutionary breaks in large nations' centuries-old political and economic arrangements take many decades of zigzags from "republics" to "empires," from democratic breakthroughs to reactionary retrenchment to find a stable balance between the old and the new.

Leon Aron is a resident scholar, specializing in Russia, at the American Enterprise Institute

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## NMI

From Page 7

is entitled to the money and this is what prompted the CNMI government to begin negotiations on how to collect this significant amount.

According to the official, certain individuals and companies had paid the U.S. government taxes and other charges imposed on them and this has been going on for several years now.

However, if the law is applied, the U.S. government should have been remitting the said monies back to the CNMI's coffer. This has not happened.

## PETE A

From Page 7

as those introduced last year and the year before and, as what he had done before, he said he has contacted the CNMI's friends in Congress to be ready to introduce an amendment to these bills if they are ever actually brought to a vote.

The amendment Tenorio is referring to is the tiered wage system similar to what is currently in use in American Samoa. This system provides for an industry-by-industry examination of wages, productivity, profits, cost of living, and viability of wage increases.

"One of the primary reasons I have proposed this amendment is to change our emphasis from fighting an unrealistic increase in wages to working on a realistic solution. Until the U.S. Congress either passes these or similar bills as is, or passes them with our amendment, we will have to address this issue every session of Congress. This is my third year in this office and my third time to address this issue," he said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we need to raise our wages. Currently the wages in our government are much higher than in the private sector, but there are few jobs in the government. We must look at raising wages in the private sector, but it has to be done in a manner that will

After the CNMI government found out about it, an immediate discussion was held, but sources said that Gov. Juan N. Babauta was and is not directly involved in the ongoing negotiation. The source did not specify as to when the CNMI government found out about this.

Babauta had disclosed Monday that his visit to Washington D.C. this week would include a possible meeting to discuss the "cover-over" issue with U.S. Cabinet members.

"We are arranging a series of meeting with members of the U.S. Congress and the administration and Cabinet members

not drive the employers out of business," Tenorio said. "Our government must take the initiative to gradually increase our wages locally rather than continually fight national legislation where the CNMI is included for political reasons."

Tenorio said he has concerns about what would happen if these bills became law, but added that he has faith that the CNMI's allies in Congress will once more help the Commonwealth as they have before.

"I maintain close contact with several members of the Senate and the House on this issue. Without a delegate to speak directly for us, it's the best thing I can do," Tenorio added.

Saipan Garment Manufacturing Association executive director Richard Pierce had earlier said that any wage increase at this time would certainly not be in the best interest of the CNMI.

"It will harm the businesses. It will hurt the industry directly and the CNMI economy as a whole. To unilaterally introduce that in the U.S. without talking about that here is not a good idea. I don't think they have done a study here," he said.

He said such move would also be "a recipe for disaster for the local autonomy."

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial had also said any attempt to increase the CNMI minimum wage level would spell economic disaster to the already eroding economy of the North-

to tackle issues affecting the CNMI. We would discuss with them the taxes claimed by federal government, which should be returned to us. I cannot speak more about that. It is being worked on right now," said the governor in an earlier interview.

Babauta is leaving on May 30 to hold a series of discussion with members of the U.S. Congress and the Bush administration. Topping his agenda for the trip is the discussion on the stateless bill to be sponsored by U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Governor Reforms-Subcommittee on wellness and human rights.

ern Marianas. In fact, to tamper with the existing minimum wage law is an attempt to tinker with the U.S.-CNMI Covenant and could open the floodgates for another attempt by the federal government to take over control of immigration in the Commonwealth.

The first proposal, S. 2370, was introduced by Sen. Edward Kennedy at the Senate, with the support of 26 others, including Hawaii Sen. Daniel Akaka and leading Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

An exactly identical bill, H.B. 4256, was introduced at the U.S. House by long-time CNMI critic, Rep. George Miller.

Titled "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2004," S.2370 passed on second reading and has been placed on the Senate calendar. It aims to amend the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act to increase the federal minimum wage to \$5.85 an hour. After a year, this will be further increased to \$6.45 an hour and then \$7 an hour by the second year.

The bill's provision that directly affects the CNMI is Section 3, which seeks to increase the minimum wage from \$3.05 an hour to \$3.55 an hour, to be made effective two months after the bill becomes law. It will then be further increased by 50 cents every six months until the minimum wage in the Commonwealth attains the federal level.

## 3 STUDENTS

From Page 7

vied for the Junior Statesmen Summer School Program scholarship.

According Omengebar, 27 students would be attending Stanford University, three would go to Yale, three would attend Princeton, and four would be attending Georgetown University.

Omengebar explained that Borja, Benjamin and Casey Borja, would receive free airfare and tuition for the summer school program. The rest however, would have to raise their own funds to attend the course that would begin next month.

"The Saipan delegation has appropriated \$50,000 to help CNMI students who would be attending the Junior Statesmen; the Rota and Tinian delegations have been trying to identify a source of funds to help them. The students need to leave by the end of the month," said the director.

Of the 37 students, one comes from Rota, eight come from

## MVA

From Page 7

Before her appointment, Benavente was MVA's deputy managing director.

Sablan said that majority of the MVA board voted for Benevente after reviewing and rating the several applicants. "The MVA board made the selection after much thorough discussion and consideration of all the candidates' background and experience."

Santos had complained that, based on MVA's Job Vacancy Announcement, it was specifically required that one of the minimum qualification requirements for the candidate is graduation from a recognized college or university, and that he believed Benavente does not meet the requirement.

Sablan pointed out, though, that Public Law 11-15, which gives the MVA board the power to appoint its managing director, does not set a specific standard for the appointed position of the

Tinian and the rest come from Saipan. This is the first time in its 13-year history in the CNMI that the program saw an increase of participants from Tinian.

"This is a great program and the students get an opportunity to attend schools like these. It would improve their speech and communication skills and it would help them improve and succeed academically," Omengebar said.

The scholarships, funded by the U.S. Interior Department, cover all tuition costs and round-trip transportation to the Summer School of the students' choice.

Month-long sessions of the Junior Statesmen Summer School are conducted at the prestigious university campuses of Stanford, Northwestern, Princeton, Yale and Georgetown.

Two of the scholarship winners—Emmanuel and Nicole—will be attending the Stanford Summer School; Casey will be attending the Princeton University session.

Summer School students take college level courses in Ameri-

can Government and Speech, while they develop and polish their leadership skills.

Highlighting each session is a high level speakers program giving students a chance to meet and question legislators, other elected officials, judges, reporters, political campaign consultants, and others in the political arena.

Each night, Summer School students debate controversial political issues in a simulation of Congress.

For the past 13 years, Interior has offered full tuition and transportation scholarships to the Junior Statesmen Summer School to outstanding high school students in the CNMI, Guam, the Republic of Belau, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

In the past twelve years, 225 students from the CNMI, 269 students from Guam, and 125 students from the Republic of Belau have attended The Junior Statesmen Summer School. Some 36 students from the CNMI have been accepted to the 2004 Junior Statesmen Summer School.

managing director. At the same time, he stressed that to fill the appointed position of managing director "does not require that MVA advertise the vacancy."

Sablan said that according to 4 CMC Section 2122, the person appointed to the position is not required to have a minimum educational background, degree in higher education or specialized work experience.

Sablan further pointed out that Santos himself had told the MVA board that he was "uncomfortable talking in public." This, Sablan said, was a particular concern to the board as it would have a detrimental effect on the CNMI as a destination competing in today's global travel industry.

He explained that the MVA managing director is frequently in the eye of the public and must be able to make speeches, sales calls, and presentations to travel and tourism representatives in all of the CNMI's target markets.

On May 18, 2004, Santos sent letter to the MVA board of

directors to express that he felt discriminated against and that he wanted an explanation from the MVA on the criteria used to select Benavente over him for the post.

"I have an undergraduate degree in International Trade & Finance. I also attended the Executive Development Institute for Tourism, a month-long intensive workshop at the University of Hawaii specifically geared toward executives working in the tourism and travel industry to which I also know that Mrs. Benavente did not attend. Based on these criteria, I feel I am a more qualified applicant for the position," he said.

After an initial show of support, House Rep. Ray Yumul had also questioned MVA's choice of Benavente, questioning her educational qualifications. Yumul himself was an applicant for the MVA managing director position back when the MVA chose Jonas Ogren. He had also questioned MVA's decision on the matter.

## IN DEFENSE

From Page 7

Islands to ask for his suggestions as to what Azmar could do for the former residents in support of their relocation. At Mayor Taisican's request, Mr. Moore set aside \$3.45 million dollars to be spent over three years to build a village for those people. That is written into the Azmar pro forma that was submitted to MPLA with our permit application and will be an addendum to the final terms and conditions of the permit.

The money will be there as soon as our permit is effective. When and how this money gets used is up to the Mayor and MPLA. They will decide who is in line for a house and where the village will be located. The legislature may be responsible for providing homestead legislation. In addition, Mr. Moore

has made a commitment to build an infirmary, associated with CHC, to be the Pagan Health Center. He also committed to build a schoolhouse to be made available to the public school system. We hope, of course, that a good measure of the money will be put into capital improvement projects for Pagantown, or whatever the people who eventually live there want to call it, including a complete utility system.

As to the revenue sharing between Azmar and the CNMI, the only thing that was correct in the letter was Mr. Moore's commitment to pay a 7 percent royalty on the gross revenue of the pozzolan shipped from Pagan. This is in addition to paying the 5 percent BGR, the taxes paid at the dock on all the equipment Azmar imports, and all the other fees, assessments

and taxes due to the government. Azmar has not requested any relief on any taxes.

The letter testifies to the ignorance of the original writer when it says 93 percent will go to line the pockets of Azmar. In the first place, 60-65 percent of the gross revenue goes to the cost of shipping, which is verifiable. Then one must subtract the cost of building the infrastructure necessary for such an operation on an uninhabited island 200 miles north of the nearest toilet. Then subtract the cost of operations, including salaries. By the way, we will be paying stateside wages. We do not expect to hire alien laborers. We plan to recruit locally, particularly among the Chamorro and Carolinian Americans or Micronesians now living in the CNMI, or we will import mainland U.S. citizens. Ask yourself: Are

you a qualified heavy equipment operator working for the government who isn't getting paid enough, doesn't have the benefits package you want and doesn't want to campaign next year for somebody you don't like? Try Azmar, when we get our permit of course!

The bottom line is, the margin that Azmar will be surviving on isn't that large, but it is good enough over the long run to make the investment worthwhile.

The letter also had the story of Azmar International and the Azmar Foundation backwards. The Azmar Foundation was created by Ken Moore for the purpose of building a modern, state of the art, interactive national war museum. The great majority of the profits he earns from the Azmar International, mining pozzolan, will go into supporting this altruistic non-

profit project. Mr. Moore has also agreed to build a satellite museum on Saipan.

Lastly, and hopefully for the last time, Mr. Moore did not break the law when he took the machine gun out of his uncle's B-29 from the waters off Alamagan. If he did, then so has every one of us who has picked up a World War II canteen, a mess kit, a helmet, a bayonet, expended bullets or artillery cartridges. If it was true, then half the population of the Marianas would be outlaws! In fact, Mr. Moore presented the gun to HPO and offered to have it fully restored in the states and have it displayed in a major museum with a plaque identifying it as from the CNMI. HPO would have been smarter to take him up on his offer and expand on it, rather than rebuff him. It should also be noted that he rented the

MV Challenger for the voyage to Alamagan, filled it with gas and left enough on board to fulfill the needs of the ship for an additional trip north by the CNMI after he left.

Believe it or not, people, Ken Moore really does want to do good things, and it hurts him personally when someone implies otherwise. Over time, this will become self-evident. I believe the day will come when people look upon Ken Moore, much as they did Ken Jones. (I guess that dates me!)

That is plenty for now. If there are other persons or organizations that want to ask questions and stop false rumors, contact me directly at farrells@gtepacifica.net or the Azmar web site at www.azmarinternational.

**Don A. Farrell**  
Marpo Heights, Tinian



# 500 govt employees re-enroll with AIC

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

About 500 government active employees, dependents, and retirees re-enrolled Monday with Individual Assurance Company for their life insurance coverage under the NMI Retirement Fund’s Group Health and Life Insurance program.

“This is just the first day of a five-day re-enrolment and people are coming. We’re happy,” said AIC resident general manager Donald C. Barcinas.

AIC personnel began the enlistment Monday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library conference room.

Earlier, GHLI Trust Fund manager Dolores Moore said that due to a new contract signed between the Fund and AIC, which becomes effective on June 1, all members must re-enroll to be covered under the new plan.

“Please make time to attend this important session and re-enroll to continue or to waive your GHLI coverage,” said Moore.

Barcinas said the orientation and re-enrolment session is held from 8am to 5pm everyday up to Friday.

AIC has been serving GHLI members for three years now. Its newly signed contract is good for one year, according to Barcinas.

Under the life insurance

program, members pay 50 percent of the premium, and the government pays the remaining 50 percent. AIC members pay as low as \$4.25 per pay. “It depends on the income. If you have bigger income then you have bigger premium, bigger coverage,” said Barcinas.

## Residential, biz inspections in Kagman II village

The Division of Environmental Quality and the Bureau of Environmental Health would like to inform the residents of Kagman II village that On-site Disposal System and premise compliance inspections would be conducted on residential and business facilities. The inspections has been ongoing since April 21, 2004 and will continue to be conducted every Tuesday and Wednesday.

These inspections succeed the passing of Public Law 12-48, which states that inspections must be conducted on commercial and private premises to prevent and control vector borne diseases. Further, the governor’s Directive No. 220 discusses the identification and elimination of non-point source pollution, such as leakage from sewer systems and effluent disposals.

Kagman II residents are requested to cooperate with inspectors in keeping their dog(s) on a leash, for the safety of the inspectors. Both BEH and DEQ inspectors are required to wear their respective uniforms and photo identification during all inspections.

For additional information on the OSDS inspections, contact the BEH office at 664-4870/2 or the DEQ office at 664-8500/1.

microl  
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# DPH warns of delayed services today

The Department of Public Health will be actively participating in the island-wide multi-agency disaster drill today. This important drill will improve the department's ability to protect the CNMI in any type of natural disaster or terrorist incident.

As such, the department said that patients who are scheduled to be seen today should expect additional wait times at the Commonwealth Health Center, San Antonio, San Roque, and the private clinics.

At CHC, it said non-emergency services will likely be delayed and any hospital patients or visitors should expect commotion and disruption in patients' care areas.

"Emergency patients will continue to receive priority care, but all other patient care duties will likely be delayed. Our disaster drills require an increase in hospital surge capacity, so x-ray and physical therapy patients will also be affected," the department said in a statement.

"Please be patient and understanding as DPH advances its disaster care preparedness and response during our island wide drill," it added.

# Ping resigns from the Ms. Teen board

Crispin "Ping" Deleon Guerrero Jr. has resigned from the Miss Teen CNMI Beauty Pageant Association.

Guerrero submitted his letter dated May 8, 2004 to the pageant's president, Noby Crisostomo, and furnished copies to pageant producer/director Ernie Molina.

Guerrero said it was a difficult decision he had to make. But he said his jobs came first. He said he found it hard this year, being on the pageant association's board while trying to manage two jobs. Guerrero is currently employed at the CNMI Youth Congress Office as a full-time employee and works part-time at the DFS Galleria.

He was brought into the board of the teen pageant in April of 2002. Crispin was given multiple positions since his involvement w/ the association, including official photographer; Chairman, Program Booklet; Pageant Producer; and National Director.

Guerrero wishes to thank all businesses and individuals who assisted and supported him. "I will miss the candidates, most especially this year's senioritas. "I wish everyone the best of luck with their endeavors."



Guerrero

# Public Health offers childbirth, early pregnancy classes

The Division of Public Health is now offering "Childbirth Preparation" and "Early Pregnancy" classes free of charge for all interested expecting mothers and parents.

The classes are part of a Department of Public Health effort to improve the quality of prenatal care among women in the CNMI.

The "Early Pregnancy" classes will teach expecting mothers about prenatal care including nutrition, breastfeeding, common discomforts, exercise and other important information pregnant women should know.

Classes for this are held the 1st and 2nd Wednesdays of each month from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the Commonwealth Health Center's Continuing Education room, which is located next to the CHC cafeteria on the first floor.

"Childbirth Preparation" classes, on the other hand, will teach expecting mothers about Lamaza breathing and relaxation techniques, the proper time to go to the hospital, the labor and delivery process, breastfeeding, family planning options, oral hygiene and much more.

Classes for this will be held the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in the CHC Continuing Education room.

The class will be taught by Public Health nurse and midwife Latisha Lochabay, who has over 15 years experience with child birth and early pregnancy education.

Lochabay asks that the class' participants wear comfortable clothes and bring a pillow, mat or a towel to the classes. These items are essential to the class, which will involve prenatal and relaxation exercises.

Reserve your space in this class ahead of time by calling 236-8709 between the hours of 7:30am and 4:30pm.



## American Samoa official guilty of fraud

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa's former Chief Procurement Officer, Faau Seumanutafa, has pleaded guilty in the Hawaii Federal District Court to one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States government.

The complaint against the former CPO refers to coconspirators who were involved in a scheme to defraud the U.S. government.

The scheme involved invoicing for furniture and construction services that were never provided.

The complaint also mentions that the conspirators paid some government officials.

Seumanutafa is due to be sentenced in February 2005.

His attorney said that Seumanutafa is allowed to travel back to American Samoa.

## ADB to study Pacific transpo problems

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (Radio Australia/PIR)—The Asian Development Bank is to spend almost US\$500,000 on a new study into why transport services in the Pacific Islands are so inefficient.

Recently, the governments of both Kiribati and Tonga have abandoned trying to provide their countries with air links to the outside world.

Both have shut down their international airlines because Air Kiribati and Royal Tongan Airlines were losing too much money.

In a news release issued from Manila, the Asian Development Bank says its study will examine the obstacles to efficient aviation, shipping and road transport among the island countries.

Australia is currently funding a separate study into the region's aviation and shipping problems and Prime Minister John Howard is expected to table that report and its recommendations at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting in Apia in August.

**DHL to raise freight rates for PNG**

**PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea** (PNG Post-Courier/PIR)—International cargo company DHL Danzas Air and Ocean will hit Papua New Guinea with a freight charge increase next month as Qantas increases its fuel surcharge due to a global increase in oil prices.

DHL national operations manager (Papua New Guinea) Daniel Anderson said in a letter to clients that due to a fee increase by Qantas for all cargo exported from PNG, the Switzerland-based company would not absorb the increase and would therefore pass it on to its customers effective as of June 1.

He said the company had approached Air Niugini to ascertain if the airline was increasing its prices. But it had been advised that the airline was still considering its options and a decision is likely by the end of this week.

Mr Anderson said they would advise their customers of any increase in fuel surcharge by Air Niugini.



# Congress takes up brown tree snake

CNMI Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio recently provided oral testimony in Congress in support of a bill to provide for the control and eradication of the brown tree snake on Guam and the prevention of the introduction of the BTS to other areas of the United States and territories.

H.R. 3479, or the proposed Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act, was introduced by Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo and Hawaii Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Ed Case.

At the legislative hearing conducted May 13 by the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans of the U.S. House Committee on Resources, Tenorio spoke of the devastating ecologic and economic damage the BTS has inflicted on Guam and how similar events could transpire if the BTS is not properly controlled and it manages to establish a foothold in the CNMI.

"Because of its close proximity, the increasing frequency of vessel and cargo traffic, and similar environments and climate, the CNMI is at an incredibly high risk for BTS introduction from Guam," said Tenorio.

Key objectives of H.R. 3479 include the authorization of \$18 million in each fiscal year from 2005 to 2010 to the U.S.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio reads his testimony during a public hearing in the U.S. Congress on the brown tree snake afflicting Guam. Behind him is Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo.

departments of Agriculture and of the Interior for BTS control, interdiction, research, and eradication; the statutory authorization of and establishment of a BTS Control and Eradication Committee; greater federal involvement and support for BTS concerns on Guam; and greater federal involvement and

cooperation with state and local authorities to prevent the introduction of BTS to other areas of the United States.

"The passage of H.R. 3479 is vital because it would ensure long-term funding and support for control, research, and hopeful eradication of the BTS," said Tenorio. "It is also

imperative in that it would ensure that the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, and various federal agencies would work closely to prevent the spread of BTS beyond the borders of Guam to other areas in the Pacific and the mainland US."

Those who testified along with Tenorio included Case; Dr.

James Tate Jr., Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Department of the Interior; William Clay, Deputy Administrator of Wildlife Services, Department of Agriculture; and testifying via videoconference were Guam Gov. Felix Camacho and Guam Sen. Tina Barnes.

The BTS is believed to have

been inadvertently brought to Guam shortly after World War II, transported in materials on a military cargo ship possibly from Guinea or Australia. Because of the previously abundant prey and the lack of natural predators, the BTS easily managed to thrive on Guam.

The BTS has been the principal cause of the devastation of the island's native bird and lizard population, where 10 of 13 bird species and nine of 12 lizard species have been wiped out.

The CNMI is the final remaining home to several indigenous endemic and endangered bird species that also used to inhabit Guam but were exterminated by the BTS.

Besides the environmental harm, the BTS has also caused major damage to Guam's economy. They are believed to have been directly responsible for causing 241 power outages in the past five years and 1,600 in the past 20 years, costing about \$4.5 million per year.

All testimony heard was in support of H.R. 3479. The measure has also been referred to the House Agriculture Committee.

"Regional cooperation is the cornerstone of this bill, and the only way this species can be controlled and eventually eradicated," concluded Tenorio.

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# Island Snapshots

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Local Milestones

32 GTC students bids school adieu

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

A total of 32 youngsters said their goodbyes as students of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary yesterday morning during a farewell ceremony that recognized their efforts and accomplishments throughout their years as grade school students.

Flanked by parents, family members, school officials,

and dignitaries, the students remained calm and collected, perfectly nailing and acing several performances that touched many spectators, including a spectacular singing performance of Munga Engrattu—a tribute to parents that featured the students presenting flowers to parents.

The ceremony also featured a speech by Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, who served as

the event’s keynote speaker. Naraja challenged the students to push for a bright future and noted various leaders serving the government who were pupils at the school.

The students also received words of wisdom from GTC Parents/Teachers Association president Candido Taman and GTC principal Manuela A. Babauta.

“Your enthusiasm for learning and your exceptional academic performance have guaranteed you an outstanding future,” said Babauta. “You are to be commended for the positive example you have set for your peers and high standards you have set for yourself.”

Rovana Joez SN. Decena was conferred the Commissioner’s Award, which is given to the student posting the highest Grade Point Average from fourth to sixth grade.

Celestial Jewel C. Dela Cruz was the proud recipient of the prestigious Principal’s Award, which was awarded to the student

Presiding Judge Robert Naraja talks to the sixth grade students during their farewell ceremony yesterday at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School. Naraja was the keynote speaker.

SHAN SEMAN



As part of their “Tribute to Parents” performance, the sixth grade students left the stage and presented parents with gifts.

SHAN SEMAN



ROVANA JOEZ SN. DECENA  
Commissioner’s Award



CELESTIAL JEWEL C. DELA CRUZ  
Principal’s Award



with the second highest GPA.

The Presidential Awardees were Andrea D. Tenorio, Nicole C. Tesiro, Remylynn C. Mafnas, Ryan M. Litulumar,

Luella Orlando, Ramir T. Bialialba, Dominic A. Reyes, Marlon C. Meily, Necita Aldan, and Franco M. Santos.

Other awards, including

Presidential Awards for Educational Achievement, Leadership awards, Perfect Attendance awards, and Citizenship awards, were also presented.

...as 62 Kingfishers say adios

By SHAN SEMAN  
REPORTER

With the number of years spent at the school, the sixth grade students of William S. Reyes Elementary School will surely carry with them fond memories as they closed one chapter in their lives and embarked on a new one.

Surely among those memories would be yesterday’s farewell ceremony held at the school grounds. A total of 62 students were recognized for the efforts that merited their promotion to the junior high school level.

In keeping with the school’s

mascot, Kingfisher, principal Alfred Ada commended the students, parents, and teachers with advice to “aim high, fly high, go Kingfishers.”

Heading to the stage with much pride was Justin E. Cabrera, whose determination and commitment to pursuing educational excellence paid off when he was named as the Commissioner’s Award recipient.

Jonel Marissa C. Ermitanio was also all smiles as she earned the Kingfisher Award while Scott G. Cabrera took home the Principal’s Award.

Other awards were also pre-

sented, including several Presidential awards, Honor awards, Subject awards, Bilingual Award, and Sportsmanship Award.

Prior to leaving, the sixth grade students gave another performance to solidify their legacy, performing their farewell song Graduation. They also wowed the audience with a dance performance. A special presentation was also conducted by the fifth grade bilingual class.



JUSTIN E. CABRERA  
Commissioner’s Award



JONEL MARISSA C. ERMITANIO  
Kingfisher Award



SCOTT G. CABRERA  
Principal’s Award



CASSIE FEJERAN

Sixth grade students pay close attention to remarks during their farewell ceremony yesterday at the William S. Reyes Elementary School.



Prior to their promotion to the junior high school level, the sixth grade students were honored in a farewell ceremony at the William S. Reyes Elementary School.

CASSIE FEJERAN

dial rent



shell







# World

kambara





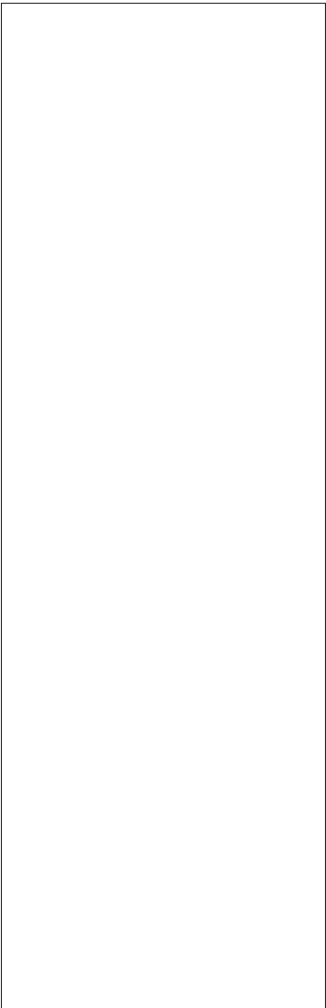
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# Campus Life

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# Life & Style



## Tolkien house to go on sale in Britain

LONDON (AP)—"Lord of the Rings" fans will soon have the chance to buy a home where part of the trilogy was written, as long as they have about \$2.7 million to spare.

The house in north Oxford, where author J.R.R. Tolkien is believed to have written "The Hobbit" and begun the "Lord of the Rings," is set to go on the market next week.

The house was Tolkien's family home for 17 years during his time as a professor at Oxford University.

The six-bedroom property, where Tolkien lived until 1947, includes a drawing room that once was the author's study. When he moved out, the home was taken over by another academic who died recently.

Tolkien is one of Oxford's best-known 20th century literary figures and was, along with "Narnia" creator C.S. Lewis, a member of the Inklings group, which met in the local Eagle and Child pub.

The house is located in an expensive section of the city, which is home to Oxford University, one of the nation's best schools.

Real estate agents said the house, with its original features and large yard, should be a quick sell, even though it needs work.

## DA seeks to keep \$3M Jackson bail

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's prosecutor is opposing a move by the pop singer to reduce his \$3 million bail, arguing that he may be planning to flee the country.

According to a motion obtained by media lawyers Sunday, District Attorney Tom Sneddon's office said Jackson's immense wealth requires at least \$3 million bail to ensure he will appear for trial on child molestation charges and, if convicted, would be prepared to serve a lengthy prison sentence.

"The temptation to flee must surely be strong for an individual in defendant's circumstances," said the motion. "To suppose otherwise would be to blink reality."

Jackson's lawyer Thomas Mesereau Jr. did not immediately return phone calls Sunday. Defense attorneys Robert Sanger and Steve Cochran also could not immediately be reached for comment.

The prosecution motion, written by Deputy District Attorney Gerald McC. Franklin, envisioned Jackson living out the rest of his life as "a wealthy absconder" rather than facing a life term in a California prison.

The document included a footnote alluding to the case of Andrew Luster, an heir to the Max Factor cosmetics fortune who fled from Ventura County to Mexico during his rape prosecution "notwithstanding his \$1 million bail bond." Luster ultimately was captured in Mexico.

# Snoop Dogg files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Snoop Dogg is getting a divizzle. The rapper/actor has filed for divorce from Shante Broadus, according to papers filed with Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday.

They have been married since 1997 and have three children: Corde, 9; Cordell, 7; and Cori, 4. He is seeking joint custody.

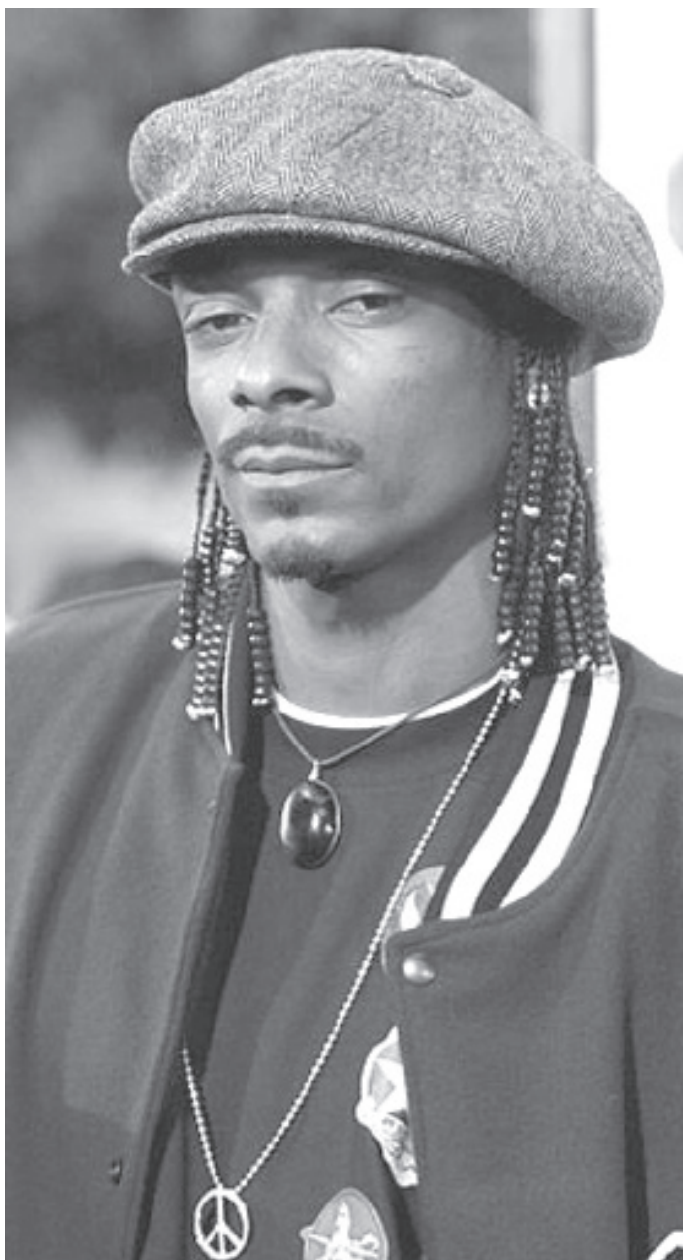
Snoop, born Calvin Broadus, cited general "irreconcilable differences" for the breakup.

"The only thing I want to say is Mr. Broadus hopes that the divorce can be as amicable as possible," Snoop's attorney, Robert Nachshin, told The Associated Press on Monday.

Snoop, 32, co-stars in the new movie "Soul Plane," which opens Friday. He also has appeared in the movies "Baby Boy" and "Starsky & Hutch," starred in MTV's "Doggy Fizzle Televizzle" comedy show and helped popularize new slang that adds a lot of unnecessary Zs and Ls to words.

He first made a name for himself more than 10 years ago, rapping about street violence, gangs, sex and marijuana. Recently, he has embraced the pimp style popular with many rappers while branching out into hosting porn videos (some filmed in his own backyard, according to his web site) and other sexually explicit material such as the "Girls Gone Wild" series.

Shante Broadus' attorney, James Durrant, did not immediately return a call for comment.



Actor and singer Snoop Dog, shown in this May 17, 2004, file photo in Los Angeles.

## 'American Idol' takes on Southern flavor

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—As its third season draws to a close, "American Idol" has taken on a distinctly Southern-fried flavor. When North Carolina's Fantasia Barrino and Georgia's Diana DeGarmo perform Tuesday and Wednesday in the TV talent show's season finale, they'll be following footsteps that have most often walked south of the Mason-Dixon line.

Past winners of the Fox contest include Texas's Kelly Clarkson and Alabama's Ruben Studdard. Last year's runner-up, Clay Aiken, is from North Carolina. Even season one's second-place finisher, Justin Guarini of Pennsylvania, actually grew up in Georgia.

"I think it's an honest realism," said Latimer Alexander, mayor pro tem of Barrino's hometown of High Point. "Their character seems to come forward. People are drawn to others who are real. ... You can say that's a Southern trait."

Jerry Oberholtzer, mayor of DeGarmo's hometown of Snellville, Ga., was born in Allentown, Pa., raised in New Jersey, and has lived in the South for 23 years. He also believes Southern character has helped the "Idol" contestants.

"A lot has to do with being in the South and being conservative, the respect they both show to the judges," Oberholtzer said.

"You can look at them and say they were brought up well and they respect their elders. It's not all about them."

Last year's runner-up, Aiken, made such a positive impression during his "Idol" run that he headed the National League of Junior Cotillions' list of the "Ten Best-Mannered People of 2003."

Contestants Barrino and DeGarmo attribute their success to native charm.

"I think Southern people are peppy, happy people no matter what and I think people like to grasp onto that," said 16-year-old DeGarmo. "Southern people are fun, they like to have a good time."

## Kirk Douglas, wife renew wedding vows

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Kirk and Anne Douglas said "I do" for the second time in 50 years at a mansion overlooking downtown Los Angeles, renewing the marriage vows the Hollywood couple first took when they eloped to Las Vegas in 1954.

The couple reaffirmed their commitment Sunday before 300 friends and family members in a traditional Jewish ceremony at the famed Greystone Mansion in Beverly Hills, said Kirk Douglas' longtime publicist Warren Cowan.

The elegant, hilltop Gothic landmark is often used as a set for movies and television programs.

Guests at the star-studded event included former First Lady Nancy Reagan, Merv Griffin, Dan Aykroyd, Lauren Bacall, Tony Curtis, Vidal Sassoon, and Anjelica Huston, among others.

As Anne Douglas, 74, walked down the aisle, musicians switched from the first bars of the wedding march to Sammy Cahn's "Love and Marriage."

The star of "Spartacus" and "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" walked to the rose-adorned chupah, a canopy, to the strains of "I'm in the Mood for Love."

The couple first married on Kirk Douglas' day off while he was filming "20,000 Leagues,"

said Cowan, who was the best man at that "The two met in Paris. She was here on a visa and was about to go back. He didn't want to take a chance of losing her," Cowan said. "So they went to Vegas."

The Douglas' son Peter, his wife and four children attended the ceremony, as did Kirk Douglas' son, producer Joel Douglas, from his first marriage.

His other two sons from his first marriage, actors Eric and Michael Douglas were unable to attend. Michael Douglas was accompanying his wife, Catherine Zeta-Jones, who is filming a new movie in Europe, Cowan said.

## Husband's 'boys' night out' stirs bad memories for wife

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I'm having a hard time dealing with an upcoming event. My husband, "Rob," and our nephews are planning a night out visiting the local all-nude strip clubs. I walked into the room just as one nephew was inviting him. Abby, he jumped at the chance! When I asked what they were talking about, Rob said, "Nothing," and changed the subject.



*Dear Abby*

I don't want him to go. This isn't a new occurrence in our more-than-30-year marriage.

After we were married seven years, Rob came home from work and told me he wanted to be with other women. The men he worked with all had girlfriends on the side and were always talking about how great it was, and my husband thought he was missing something. Since Rob's sister and young son were living with us at the time, I moved out. Every day he called me at work to see how I was, and on the third day he called, crying, and begged me to come home. He had decided I was what he really wanted.

Twelve years later, Rob had a stress breakdown. While he was in the hospital he confessed that he'd had a three-year affair with a woman he worked with and had paid for her to have an abortion. He said it was over and promised there would be no more women. It was his idea, not mine. I never mentioned the subject again. Now this.

Abby, I'm having a lot of trouble dealing with this. The "boys' night out" is in three weeks. I have decided to tell Rob that I wish he wouldn't go—not can't go—and leave the decision up to him. Am I just a jealous wife, or insecure, or unreasonable?

WOUNDED IN NEW YORK

DEAR WOUNDED: I'd say you're insecure with good reason. Your husband's history of fidelity and stability is poor, and it didn't help matters that when you asked what the men were talking about, he was evasive. You do not appear to be jealous. It would not be unreasonable to air your feelings about his behavior, past and present, when you tell him you wish he wouldn't go. Considering his past, the request is understandable.

DEAR ABBY: While my mother lay on her deathbed, my stepfather of 17 years had her sign a new will, leaving everything to him. She was heavily sedated at the time, but he explained that it would be easier for him to disburse the money that she wanted us kids to have if he were in charge.

He remarried one year after Mother died and dropped us like hot potatoes. It has been a while since I contacted him, but my family had financial difficulties, so I called to ask about the money. His reply, "Tough luck."

He had promised my mother, my siblings and me that he would take care of us. We're not talking about a few bucks, Abby, we're talking about a half-million dollars!

I pray he reads this and thinks hard about what he did. Please help. I have no other recourse.

HURT DAUGHTER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DAUGHTER: Have you spoken to a lawyer about this? I did. Here's what my legal expert had to say:

"As a matter of law, yes, there could be some recourse. However, we don't know how much time has elapsed since the mother died and the stepfather remarried. If the new will was done on the reliance of the promise he made, there MAY be something that could be done when he dies."

So, my advice to you and your siblings is to consult an attorney who specializes in planning estates.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)





# Pastimes

**CROSSWORD**

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-228-5955! \$35 per minute. Watch today's puzzle, 11:30 a.m. only. A King Features service. NYT.

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By Bryan Basset

**The Duplex**

By Glenn McCoy

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**

Justin Jeffre, Sean Astin, Lesley Boone, Sally Jessy Raphael

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Having a crusader attitude will make all the difference in the world this year. Be a little stubborn if you think you are right. Be diverse in all that you do and you will meet the demands being put on you and accomplish your goals. Your numbers are 2, 13, 17, 29, 31, 40

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY



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**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*)  
Push to make others aware of what you are doing and how you believe it will help everyone on some level. If you can sell your ideas to others, you will put yourself in a favorable position. □□□



**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*)  
This is a perfect day to make some much-needed adjustments. Opportunities will manifest themselves in the most unusual places, so don't hesitate to talk about your dreams. □□□



**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*)  
Keeping a secret will be of utmost importance today. By disclosing what you are up to, you could blow a deal or your cover. Work by yourself; question your motives. □□□



**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*)  
Do something creative today that can be used to benefit others. The more you do to help make reforms, the better. □□□□



**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*)  
You will be misled if you are too gregarious. Tone down and observe what others are doing. Advancement may be at stake. □□



**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*)  
You can find an ideal romantic partner if you get out and do things that interest you. Get involved in talks that will stimulate your mind and broaden your perspective about projects you want to pursue. □□□□□



**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*)  
Prepare yourself well so that you can follow through with what's necessary as quickly as possible. Don't be lazy or waste time thinking about what you should be doing. □□□



**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*)  
Partnerships will be a little hard to handle if you don't take precautions and fully prepare. You can get on with your plans and get the praise you deserve. □□□



**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*)  
Your work ethics will pay off, so roll up your shirtsleeves and work alongside others for best results. Your team-player approach will put you in a leadership position. □□□



**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*)  
You should be developing your ideas today. If you find someone particularly inspiring, spend time discussing your plans together. Love and romance will be on your doorstep. □□□□□



**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*)  
Take the initiative to follow what you feel is the best path and refrain from being led astray. Prepare to take a pass on what others are asking of you. □□



**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*)  
Your involvement in good causes will be rewarded today. You will begin to see the results of a job well done. Someone unusual, but interesting, will want to get to know you better. □□□□

**BIRTHDAY BABY:** You are proactive and never take the conventional route. Your outgoing nature always leads to adventure and excitement. You will chase your dreams until you reach your destiny.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) and [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com).



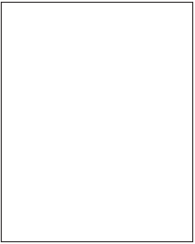








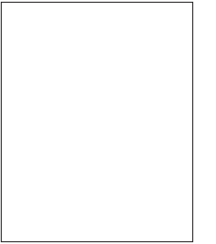




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# Saipan Tribune Sports

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE